

In the News

Jury Assembly Room Gets Rave Reviews

The 70,000 Orange County residents who report for jury service at the Santa Ana courthouse each year will find jury service less of a burden than it once was, according to recent stories on the court's new jury assembly room.

Articles in the May 14 edition of the *Los Angeles Times*, *Orange County Register*, *Long Beach Telegram*, and *San Francisco Chronicle*, as well as stories on local television and radio, covered the grand opening of the new 10,000-square-foot assembly room. The stories described the room as containing theater and lounge seating for 600, 24 study carrels with modem connections, a large-screen video projection system, and 7 ceiling-mounted television monitors.

The Orange County court

conducted its media outreach about the new jury assembly room in coordination with Juror Appreciation Week and the debut of the juror orientation video *Ideals Made Real: The Jury*. Because of the court's media efforts, many potential jurors in Orange County have been made aware of the new assembly room.

Other stories on Juror Appreciation Week in the news:

"A New Phone System and Video Promise to Make Getting a Summons Less of a Hassle," *Press-Enterprise* (Riverside), May 19, 2002

Detailed the steps taken by the Superior Court of Riverside County to make jury service easier, including use of a new interactive phone system and juror orientation video.



Potential jurors watch an orientation video in the \$1.5 million assembly room that opened recently at the Santa Ana courthouse. Photo: Los Angeles Times photo by Irfan Khan

"Jurors Get Rare Appreciation This Week," *Press Telegram* (Long Beach), May 13, 2002

Mentioned that Judge Richard W. Lyman, Jr., entertained jurors at the Long Beach courthouse by playing banjo with the Rainwater Bluegrass Band.

"Courthouse Day Care," *Press-Enterprise* (Riverside), May 8, 2002

Described the Riverside County court's efforts to make jury service less burdensome, such as by opening child-care centers for jurors serving on trials. ■

Annual Report Is Literally in the News

Ventura County court executive Michael Planet realized his court had a communication challenge when he attended a focus group meeting where one participant complained that the court never published an annual report. But another participant held up the last one the court had produced, commenting that he thought it was pretty good.

To increase circulation, the court distributed its 2002 annual report as

an insert in the *Ventura County Star* newspaper, which is sent to 110,000 households. Additional copies were passed out in jury assembly rooms, local libraries, community centers, and other public areas.

To improve readability, the court published the report in a user-friendly, magazine-style format. The text describes the court's programs and services and gives contacts for more information.



Artists Splash Color on Salinas Courthouse

A courthouse in Monterey County is a little brighter, thanks to a team of local muralists.

Jurors reporting to service at the Salinas courthouse now see an 8-foot-high, 28-foot-long mural in the court's jury assembly

room. The mural, which was unveiled in May, is dedicated to the importance of justice in society. Its centerpiece portrays the symbolically blindfolded "lady Justice." It also depicts historic images, including Colton Hall

(where the California Constitution was signed) and the original and current county courthouses.

A team of 14 volunteer artists—8 youths and 6 adults—assembled by the Monterey County Workforce Investment Board's job training program worked together for seven weeks to create the mural. A series of photographs illustrating the making of the mural will be hung on an adjacent wall.

On May 16 the Superior Court of Monterey County and the county's One Voice Arts & Leadership Program held a dedication ceremony to unveil the mural. "The court is pleased to be a part of this valuable program that encourages local youth to develop art-making and leadership skills," says Court Executive Officer Sherri Pedersen. "The artists have made an important contribution to the Monterey County community that will be treasured and enjoyed by future generations."



On May 16 the Salinas courthouse unveiled a new mural on the wall of its jury assembly room. Created by a team of youth and adult artists, the mural depicts the blindfolded "lady Justice" along with historic and scenic images from Monterey County. Photo: Courtesy of the Superior Court of Monterey County

HELPING KIDS THROUGH ART

The One Voice Arts & Leadership Program is part of the county Office for Employment and Training's Youth Employment and Training System. Through the One Voice program, which is federally funded, participants learn job-related skills including teamwork, leadership, creative thinking, and problem solving. In the last six years, the program's artists have completed 48 murals, and their art has been honored by the National Endowment for the Arts. During this period, 400 economically disadvantaged youths received training in the arts and leadership, with many gaining academic credits toward high school or college.

● For more information on the One Voice Arts & Leadership Program, visit www.onevoicearts.org/. For more information on the mural, contact Sherri Pedersen, 831-755-5060, or Joseph Werner, 831-759-3313. ■

California Receives Drug Court Award

In recognition of the many drug court activities and programs being promoted throughout the state, the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) honored California with its National Drug Court Month Award.

"California was recognized because of its leadership in obtaining recognition and funding for drug courts," says Superior Court of Santa Clara County Judge Stephen V. Manley, who accepted the award on behalf of California's drug court community. Judge Manley oversees his own county's drug court, chairs the Drug Court Systems Executive Steering Committee, and serves on the Judicial Council's Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee. He observes that "no other state has expanded the drug court movement into as many areas of the legal system, including criminal, juvenile, family law, delinquency, and mental health."

The NADCP cited the drug court photo essay that appears on the California courts' public Web site (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/drugcourts/photos.htm) as one of the ways in which California is promoting the use of drug courts. Posted in May in recognition of National Drug Court Month, the photo exhibition celebrates the success of drug court graduates. It was created collaboratively by the courts, the Administrative Office of the Courts, individual drug counselors, and other public agencies and community-based organizations.

Each year the NADCP honors one state with the National Drug Court Month Award. This year's award, California's first, was presented at the NADCP's adult drug court training conference in Washington, D.C., on June 15.

● For more information on the award or on the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, call 703-575-9400 or visit www.nadcp.org. For more information on the Collaborative Justice Courts Project, contact Nancy Taylor, Administrative Office of the Courts, 415-865-7607; e-mail: nancy.taylor@jud.ca.gov.

Federal Grants Aid California Drug Courts

The U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs (OJP) announced in June that it would give California \$4,000,886 of the \$34 million in grant funding that it is awarding across the country to support drug courts. Nine local programs in California received awards ranging from \$157,000 all the way to \$500,000. The grants will be used to establish or enhance drug courts for nonviolent, substance-abusing adult and juvenile offenders.

DRUG COURT COST-BENEFIT EVALUATION

OJP awarded a 10th grant to California's Administrative Of-

fice of the Courts (AOC) to conduct the second phase of a statewide cost-benefit drug court study. (See story in the July–August 2001 *Court News*.)

In January 2000 the AOC, working with the Northwest Professional Consortium (NPC), began a study of the state's drug courts to answer two policy questions: (1) Are adult drug courts cost-effective? (2) Which of their practices are most promising and cost-effective? In the study's first phase, the AOC and NPC developed a methodology for an in-depth cost-benefit analysis of adult drug courts in three California counties. For

the study, NPC collected information from courts; district attorneys' and public defenders' offices; treatment providers; and corrections, police, probation, and social service officials.

The second phase of the study will test and refine the methodology in six additional drug courts. At the conclusion of the study, the AOC hopes to develop a self-evaluation tool to enable the state's drug courts to do their own cost-benefit analyses. In addition, the AOC intends to use the tool as a model for similar cost-benefit analyses of other collaborative justice programs, such as family drug

courts, juvenile drug courts, and domestic violence courts.

FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR DRUG COURTS

The grants are part of the DOJ's efforts to stop drug addiction and break the cycle of crime associated with substance abuse. President Bush's fiscal year 2003 budget requests \$52 million for drug courts—a \$2 million increase over fiscal year 2002 appropriations.

Since 1989, more than 1,000 jurisdictions nationwide have established or are planning to establish a drug court. Summaries of how the grantees will use the OJP funds are available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/depo/.

● For more information, contact Francine Byrne, AOC, 415-865-7658; e-mail: francine.byrne@jud.ca.gov. ■

Interpreters

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justice," adds Justice Moore. "They use the same multilingual skills to perform their jobs."

In addition to the advertising program and editorial meetings, posters with the same recruitment messages will be distributed to ethnic civic groups, places of worship, neighborhood retail shops, legal and social aid societies, and other organizations that serve these communities.

"Ethnic media leaders are eager to participate in the civic affairs of California, and no issue is more central to their audiences than the assurance of fairness in California's courts," says NCM co-director Julian Do.

ETHNIC MEDIA EXPO

On September 18 the AOC will have a unique opportunity to build its relationships with California's highly diverse ethnic communities. NCM's EXPO 2002, a one-day conference in Los Angeles, will bring together ethnic media outlets from throughout California, including publishers, reporters, filmmakers, and television and radio producers.

The AOC's Office of Communications is coordinating an

exhibit for EXPO 2002 on current efforts to improve court access and fairness. The exhibit will showcase projects such as court interpreter recruitment, the upcoming Spanish Online Self-Help Center, translated domestic violence materials, and many of the programs of the Judicial Council's Access and Fairness Advisory Committee.

AOC RECRUITMENT PROJECTS

In addition to its ethnic media campaign, the AOC has undertaken many other projects to increase the numbers of qualified court interpreters available to the courts. These include:

- Developing and releasing statewide public service announcements to increase awareness of the interpreting profession;
- Collaborating with California State University at Long Beach to establish the nation's first bachelor of arts program in interpreting and translating;
- Working with the University of California at Berkeley and the University of California at Los Angeles to develop interpreter training programs;
- Establishing a toll-free number for individuals interested in becoming court interpreters; and
- Implementing a pilot project that provides interpreter

services via specialized telephone equipment.

LOCAL RECRUITMENT PROJECTS

Trial courts are also directly involved in recruiting and training sorely needed court interpreters.

The Superior Court of Kern County is launching its own mentoring project for candidates preparing for the Spanish oral certification exam. The court's interpreter coordinator will mentor candidates from counties that have little or no access to certified Spanish interpreters, such as Butte, Glenn, and Nevada Counties. Trainees will shadow working interpreters, use a portable language lab, and participate in mock case proceedings.

Superior Court of Fresno County Interpreter Coordinator Mary Calderon says her court, like the Kern County court, has its own mentoring program for court interpreters. The court staff also participates in job fairs and visits local high schools and colleges to spread the word about the need for court interpreters. The court works with adult schools in the area that offer classes ranging from beginning interpreting to more advanced courses designed to help students prepare for the state-sponsored certification exams. In addition, the court

collaborates with other county agencies to share and cross-train interpreters.

Reaching out to local schools is a priority, as well, for the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, according to its manager of interpreter services, Greg Drapac. Mr. Drapac serves as an instructor at the University of California at Los Angeles's training program for interpreting, and is on the advisory board for the Interpretation and Translation Program at California State University, Los Angeles. His court is sponsoring a job fair on October 19 that will focus on both court interpreting and reporting. In addition, the court is attempting to form a partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District to create a magnet school for interpreting.

DOCUMENTING THE NEED

For the last several years, the Judicial Council has requested additional state funding for costs associated with trial court interpreting and for contract rate increases for interpreters. To assist the council in its advocacy and to comply with requirements from the Legislature, beginning in July trial courts began to document court interpreter workload by language and certification status.

To assist the courts in collecting data, the AOC designed a form that captures interpreter assignments by case type and case number. The courts also will have access to a computer system that aggregates statewide data for reporting purposes. This computer system will be linked to the Judicial Council's *Master List of Certified and Registered Interpreters* to give the courts access to the most current list of qualified interpreters.

● For information on EXPO 2002, contact Ellen McCarthy, 415-865-7447; e-mail: ellen.mccarthy@jud.ca.gov. For more information on court interpreters, contact Shireen Advani, Court Interpreters Program, 415-865-7606; e-mail: shireen.advani@jud.ca.gov. ■

Improving Interpreting Through Certification

The Judicial Council developed the Court Interpreter Certification Program to raise the level of court interpreting and make it more consistent throughout the state. The council has designated 13 languages for certification: Arabic, Armenian, Cantonese, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. At present, the council gives certification exams in 8 of the 13: Arabic, Cantonese, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. In the coming years, the council will begin giving certification exams in Armenian, Mandarin, Punjabi, Russian, and Khmer.

For the past two years, the AOC has

offered workshops for certification candidates preparing to take the Spanish oral exams. It hopes eventually to offer workshops for all the certified language exams, based on the Spanish model.

On June 9 the AOC held a "train the trainer" workshop in Los Angeles in which certified Vietnamese and Arabic court interpreters could become instructors for candidates preparing for the certification exams. On June 15 a similar workshop was offered for certified Cantonese and Tagalog interpreters.

● For more information, contact Shireen Advani, Court Interpreters Program, 415-865-7606; e-mail: shireen.advani@jud.ca.gov.

Conference Examines Ethnic Bias

Speaking at California's first Statewide Conference on Race and Ethnic Bias in the Courts, Helal Omeira from the Council on American-Islamic Relations acknowledged the recent increase in discrimination against persons of Middle Eastern descent. He recommended that the courts and the Muslim community develop a closer relationship in order to diminish misunderstandings and encourage dialogue. In addition, he urged the courts to educate their judges and staffs about people from the Middle East and those who practice Islam.

Mr. Omeira was just one of many members of the interdisciplinary faculty at the conference who proposed and discussed solutions for actual and perceived racial and ethnic bias in the court system. Presenters took an honest look at such issues as racial imbalances in the

juvenile justice system, institutional racism, diversity on juries, court staff recruitment and promotion practices, and language barriers.

More than 150 participants—including judges, court administrators and staff members, attorneys, academics, and interested others—attended the conference, held April 18–19 in San Francisco. The event was sponsored by the California Center for Judicial Education and Research’s (CJER) Fairness Education Committee in collaboration with the Judicial Council’s Access and Fairness Advisory Committee.

The conference served as host for the 14th annual meeting of the National Consortium of Task Forces and Commissions on Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Courts, which was chaired by Superior Court of Los Angeles County Judge Veronica McBeth.

PRESENTERS AND WORKSHOPS

Opening the conference, California Chief Justice Ronald M. George stressed the Judicial Council's ongoing commitment to access and fairness in the courts, outlined the progress made to date, and pointed out the need for continuing efforts in such areas as language access, education and training, and court-community planning and outreach. A panel discussion featured Justice Candace D. Cooper of California's Second Appellate District and Patricio M. Serna, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Mexico.

The conference planning committee, chaired by Superior Court of Alameda County Judge Ken M. Kawaichi, based the curriculum on that of the National Center for State Courts' First National Conference of Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Bias in the

Courts (held in Albuquerque in 1995). Workshops focused on five major themes: consequences of racial and ethnic bias, women of color, institutional racism, the court as employer, and public outreach. In addressing those themes, presenters discussed witness identification, domestic violence, public trust and confidence through communication, community programs, and the advancement of women of color.

The conference concluded with a discussion of “best practices” based on recommendations made by the presenters at the workshops. Summaries of these best practices can be obtained from CJER.

● For more information, contact Michael Roosevelt, CJER, 415-865-7820; e-mail: michael.roosevelt@jud.ca.gov, or Kathleen Sikora, CJER, 415-865-7749; e-mail: kathleen.sikora@jud.ca.gov. ■



Judge Ken M.
Kawaichi



Judge Veronica
McBeth

New Video on Islam and the Courts

On April 30, the Administrative Office of the Courts' Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) presented "Continuing the Dialogue: A Conversation on Islam and the Courts," an educational satellite broadcast for superior court staffs. Judges were encouraged to attend the broadcast.

The participants considered current events, discussed how diversity can enhance customer service, and examined issues connected with Islam and the court as a workplace.

In addition, a panel of experts covered topics such as:

What is Islam?
Who practices it?
Increasing communication and
sensitivity regarding religion
The varied backgrounds of those
of Middle Eastern decent

The panel included Agha Saeed, Ph.D., American Muslim Alliance; Jayashri Srikantiah, J.D., American Civil Liberties Union (San Francisco); and Superior Court of Los Angeles County Judge Charles T. McCoy.

The broadcast was part of CJER's *Continuing the Dialogue* series, which explores issues that affect judicial branch employees and those they serve. The series also provides opportunities for court staff to learn from experts about recent events, with an eye toward giving better service to the public.

● To order the videotape of the broadcast, contact Michael Roosevelt, CJER, 415-865-7820; e-mail: michael.roosevelt@jud.ca.gov.

Self-Help Projects

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unlawful detainer, eviction, fair housing, employment, guardianships, name changes, bankruptcy, criminal appeals, probate, and general civil procedures. Through the use of real-time videoconferencing, an attorney coordinator will conduct workshops and clinics for self-represented litigants in all three counties simultaneously.

Urban Collaboration Model: Superior Court of Los Angeles County

Some larger counties have multiple self-help centers but have limited communication or sharing of resources among them. The urban collaboration model seeks to coordinate resources and deliver services seamlessly.

The Superior Court of Los Angeles County's program will create a centralized Self-Help Management Center that will develop partnerships with the court, the local bar, schools, and social service organizations; coordinate self-help activities countywide; and standardize self-help procedures throughout the county.

**Technology Model:
Superior Court of Contra
Costa County**

The technology model emphasizes the use of technology in services for self-represented litigants. The Superior Court of Contra Costa County will create a virtual Self-Help Law Center by delivering information and assistance via the Internet, computer applications, and real-time videoconferencing workshops.

Spanish-Speaking Model: Superior Court of Fresno County

The numerous Spanish-speaking litigants in California present special challenges for self-help programs. This model seeks to provide cost-effective and efficient services for a primarily Spanish-speaking population.

The Superior Court of Fresno County's Spanish Self-Help Education and Information Center will offer assistance on guardianship, unlawful detainer, civil harassment, and family law matters. The center will furnish self-help instructions in Spanish, provide a Spanish-speaking court examiner to review court documents, and sponsor "how-to" clinics.

Multilingual Model: Superior Court of San Francisco County

The multilingual model seeks to develop materials and techniques to address the needs of a multilingual, multicultural population.

The Superior Court of San Francisco County will establish a Multilingual Court Access Service Project, which will assist self-represented litigants in family law, dependency mediation, probate, small claims, civil harassment, child support, and other general civil cases. Bilingual attorneys will work with clients to ensure adequate services for them within the court and provide referrals to appropriate community and legal agencies when necessary. Additional services will include translation of court materials, development of a multilingual computerized self-help directory, and recruitment and coordination of multilingual interpreters.

GOALS

The primary goal of the Model Self-Help Centers Pilot Program is to measure the overall effectiveness of self-help centers in differing environments. Pro-

gram organizers anticipate that the centers will increase:

- ☐ Access to justice;
- ☐ Understanding of, and compliance with, the terms of court orders;
- ☐ Likelihood of just outcomes in cases involving self-represented litigants;
- ☐ User satisfaction with the court process;
- ☐ Efficiency and effectiveness of the court system; and
- ☐ Education for court users so that their expectations are reasonable in light of the law and facts.

The organizers of the pilot program also hope to develop a profile of center users and determine which services and delivery methods are most effective. A key objective of the program is to create models of self-help centers for replication across the state.

● For more information, contact Bonnie Hough, Center for Families, Children & the Courts, 415-865-7668; e-mail: bonnie.hough@jud.ca.gov. ■